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764CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ INITIALS ONLYCOUNTRY Poland

REPORT NO. [REDACTED] A

TOPIC 64th Bn of the Polish Border Guard Corps (WOP)

EVALUATION [REDACTED] 25X1X PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1C

DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED] 25X1C

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 27 June 1950

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - Standard Manpower Questionnaire

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1. On 27 July 1949 the superior headquarters of the 64th Polish Border Guard Corps (WOP) Bn in Ratibor (P 51/X 95) was the 21st Brig, Gleiwitz (Q 51/Y 37). * The brigade headquarters was at 2 Powstancow Street. The brigade allegedly had six battalions, including the 60th (Repl & Tng) Bn which was also stationed in Gleiwitz. Captain Jerzy Zawislak was battalion commander and Senior Lieutenant Wladislaw Szczepaniak the political officer.
2. a. The battalion headquarters (including a supply platoon, a signal platoon, an engineer platoon and a medical section) was located in private houses on ul.Krolowej Jadwigi, Ratibor.
- b. The 1st Border Guard Co was stationed in Leobschuetz (P 51/J 12).
- c. The 2d Border Guard Co was quartered in private houses on the SE border of Katscher (P 51/X 85), near a church. Senior Lieutenant Adam Walisz was company commander. The company had personnel in the following border bases (stracnica): No.210 in Kreuzenort (P 50/J 50), No.211 in Kranstadt (Kranowice) (P 51/X 94), No.212 in Katscher, No.213 in Owsiszczce. The company was organized into the company headquarters, four platoons and one heavy machine gun squad. The platoons furnished the personnel for the border bases which varied in strength, Nos 210 and 211 numbering 50 soldiers each, No. 212 about 20 and No. 213 about 30. The 4th Plat, being the company reserve, was

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quartered with the company headquarters personnel. Each border base had charge of a border sector from 4 to 10 km in width and up to 15 km in depth. There were patrols and listening posts equipped with rifles, sub-machine guns, hand grenades and signal pistols. Two dogs were at each base.

- d. 3rd Border Guard Co was stationed in Wodzislaw (Q 51/Y 14). Senior Lieutenant Antoniuk was the company commander. Border base No 209 in Oderberg (P 50/O 59), also a border check-point, belonged to the company.
 - e. 4th Border Guard Co was quartered in the Cieszyn (Q 50/O 88) castle. Cieszyn was a main checkpoint for official border traffic.
 - f. Captain Jan Wierzbinski was company commander of the reserve Co with Hv MG Platoon stationed in Ratibor. The company had 6 officers, 8 NCOs and about 240 EM in March 1949. **
3. Members of the 1927 class were inducted in the fall of 1948. The battalion included EM of the 1945, 1926 and 1927 classes. The inductions were effected yearly in the spring and fall. All EM were discharged after two years of service. *** The morale of the soldiers was low. There were two or three desertions each month.
 4. The battalion was equipped with Soviet rifles, sub-machine guns (with drum magazines) and heavy machine guns on wheels, Polish light machine guns, German stick hand grenades and Polish egg-shaped hand grenades.
 5. The battalion was horse-drawn. The 2d Co had six supply vehicles and a German field kitchen.
 6. Each company was self-supplying and managed its own farm. The bases had their own cattle.
 7. There was primarily border guard training and regular infantry training from October 1948 to April 1949 after which transfers were made to the border companies. The special platoons received their personnel from the reserve company.


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8. Soviet officers were not attached to the battalion. A captain (officer informacyjny) of the Security Office (UB) was at the battalion headquarters supervising the political training.

25X1A  Comment. Several WOP units (allegedly three battalions) were in Gleiwitz according to a report of August 1949. Cover No. 2219 belonged to one of the units. Later reports stated that the 21st WOP Brig was stationed in the Katowice area and that elements of the brigade included the 61st, 67th, 69th and 71st Bns. These data were partially confirmed by the deserter.

25X1A **  Comment. The data on the organization of the 64th WOP Bn indicate that the border guard battalions are organized and armed as infantry battalions of the army.

25X1A ***  Comment. The statement that recruits are inducted into the WOP every spring and fall is considered credible. As similar observations were also made with the army, it is assumed that, in Poland, there are inductions and discharges twice a year.

1 Annex: Standard Manpower Questionnaire.

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